(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Retention price-cum-Subsidy Scheme is being reviewed once in three years. The reviews for the 6th Pricing Period starting from 1st April, 1991 onwards is in progress and will be completed shortly. Necessary changes in policy, if any, will be made after completion of the on-going exercise in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Welfare of Child Labourers in Bidi Industries

1339. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make provisions for an insurance of Rs. 50, 000 by the bidi manufacturers for the child labour engaged in bidi industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR); (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Desert of Rajasthan

1340. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government hare aware that the desert of the United Arab Emirates is being developed into green pastures and cultivable land;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop the desert of Rajasthan by adopting the techniques similar to those adopted for development of UAE desert; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Desert Development Programme, a Central Sector Scheme, is already being implemented in Rajasthan with the basic objective of controlling desertification and achieving ecological balance in the long run. These objectives are sought to be achieved through adoption of low cost indigenous technologies in the areas of afforestation with special emphasis on sand-dune stabilisation, and shelter belt plantation grass-land development. The Central arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) at Jodhpur has also been instrumental in the upgradation of these local technologies as well as in the development of now technologies for desert development. Adoption of technologies from outside is not presently being considered under this Programme.

[*English*]

Loss Making Public-Sector Units

1341. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to write off losses of sick public sector units in case the workers of these units form cooperatives to run these units;

(b) if so, the details of the public sector units proposed to be handed over to workers' co-operatives;

(c) whether the Government have also agreed to provide all other necessary assis-